

APPENDIX 1: A TEXTILE GLOSSARY

This appendix defines several of the less widely understood textile-related terms used in this thesis.

Carding

This is the early stage fibre process of separating and opening fibres before they are spun into a yarn. Blending of different fibre types is often carried out at this stage. It is a vigorous mechanical ‘teasing-out’ of the fibres.

Count

The count of a yarn or filament is its specific length, that is, the inverse of its linear density. Various count ‘systems’ are used in different branches of the textile industry. Common ones are ‘metric count’ (metres/gram), ‘cotton count’ (840 yard hanks/pound) and ‘worsted count’ (560 yard hanks/pound). The higher the count the finer the yarn. Linear density is also used, with units of ‘tex’, being grams/1000 metres. Despite linear density (in tex) being the official standard designator of yarn ‘size’, other systems are still in more widespread use.

Course

The row of loops in a knitted fabric that runs across the width of the fabric.

Elastane

An elastomeric polyurethane fibre with excellent stretch and almost complete recovery. Lycra® is the best known variety but other types exist, including generic versions.

Finishing

Various processes carried out after fabric formation that impart the desired final product appearance (e.g. lustre), handle (e.g. smoothness) and/or functional properties (e.g. stain repellency).

Handle

A term used to describes the overall subjective ‘feel’ of a fabric, incorporating objective parameters like extensibility, flexibility, stiffness, surface friction and so on. Sometimes the term ‘hand’ is also used, particularly in the USA (e.g. “this fabric has a pleasant hand”).

Tenacity

Fibre and yarn strength is usually referred to in terms of tenacity, which is the maximum stress reached in a breaking test as a function of linear density. For example a yarn would be described as having a tenacity of X 'Newtons per tex'.

Wale

The column of loops in a knitted fabric that runs along the length of the fabric.

Warp

The yarns in a woven fabrics that run along the length of the fabric.

Weft

The yarns in a woven fabric that run across the width of the fabric.